

## **Benefits of the Collaborative Process**

Clients who have used the Collaborative method, report the following advantages:

### **Protects the needs of the children**

When there are children involved, the Collaborative approach provides many opportunities to keep the needs of the children at the center of the process. Most parents going through divorce say that the wellbeing of their children is their primary focus. The Collaborative method is designed to support that commitment through the work of the child specialist and through the overall commitment of the team. Because all communications are protected, parents can identify parenting concerns without the polarization that can occur when parents make accusations in court and parents can be encouraged to identify and amplify the strengths of their parenting.

### **Maintains control of the process**

One of the disadvantages of traditional negotiation is that the proceedings can sometimes be controlled by the attorneys, the judge, or court scheduling issues that often do not align with the needs of the clients. In Collaborative matters, the team members can control the process and the clients can have greater control over the outcomes.

### **Better outcomes**

Through interest based bargaining, clients can focus on common needs and on big picture goals that can often result in both the husband and the wife achieving an outcome that is better than what a court could provide either party. In addition, through use of a team, the parties can create a holistic result that addresses the emotional, communication and financial needs in addition to the legal concerns. In addition, clients are able to design durable agreements that will allow them to avoid going to court in the future.

### **Blends protection and civility**

Many clients want to achieve an amicable settlement, particularly when there are children involved. At the same time, clients want to make sure that their rights are fully protected. Because each client has a Collaborative Attorney at their side throughout the negotiations, the Collaborative method is designed to provide the needed protection without the acrimony.

### **Privacy**

Divorce proceedings in court can result in having very private matters aired in a very public setting. The Collaborative process allows you to keep your disagreements private since only the final agreement is filed with the court.

### **Dignity**

Having to argue family matters in a public forum can also diminish the dignity and integrity of both parties. The Collaborative Method gives you the opportunity to handle the divorce with dignity and respect.

### **Cost**

Collaborative cases are generally less expensive than traditional settlements. While each case is different, my legal fees for Collaborative cases has generally been about half of what I incurred in traditional settlements.

**Time**

Collaborative cases are, in general, resolved more quickly. Most Collaborative cases are completed within 3-6 months.